Drought relief to States

3169. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have released 6.34 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for July, 2003 to drought affected areas;

(b) if so, the details of allocation made, State-wise;

(c) whether drought situation in certain States, including Andhra Pradesh, has improved whereas some States, like Karnataka are still experiencing deficit rainfall;

(d) whether notwithstanding this realisation, higher allocation of foodgrains has been made to States where there is mitigation of drought, in comparison with the States still starving for rain water; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this disparity/discrimination in natural crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Task Force on Drought Management, in its meeting held on 30th June, 2003, approved additional quantity of foodgrains to the States for drought of 2002-03, as indicated below :

(lakh MTs.)

State	Additional quantity Approved
Andhra Pradesh	2.20*
Chhattisgarh	0.31
Gujarat	1.58
Karnataka	0.55
Madhya Pradesh	0.70
Tamil Nadu	1.00

*includes 1.15 lakh MTs already approved by the Task Force earlier.

(c) to (e) While the siuation in the States affected by drought during 2002-03 has improved, Karnataka has reported drought situation in 126 taluks during current year due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2003. 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated to the State for relief employment for drought declared by the State Government this year.